



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Committee Bill No. 6780

LCO No. 5184

05184HB06780ET_

Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:
(ET)

AN ACT CONCERNING WIDESPREAD BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) A municipality may
2 apply to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for a
3 project grant from the Local Capital Improvement Fund, pursuant to
4 the procedures in section 7-536 of the general statutes, as amended by
5 this act, for (1) activities relating to the planning of a municipal
6 broadband network, provided the download speed of the network will
7 be not less than one million bits per second and the upload speed of
8 such network will be not less than three hundred eighty-four thousand
9 bits per second, and (2) the installation of a municipal broadband
10 network, provided such network operates on symmetrical upload and
11 download speeds of not less than one and one-half million bits per
12 second. A municipality that seeks to develop or install a municipal
13 broadband network with a project grant from the Local Capital
14 Improvement Fund shall offer, on terms set by the municipality, the
15 right of first refusal to develop or install said network to the local
16 telephone company and community antenna television company

17 franchise, provided a municipality may reject a proposal that the
18 municipality determines is not in the best interest of the municipality.

19 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) There shall be a Broadband
20 Internet Coordinating Council, which shall include representatives
21 from both the private and public sectors. The council shall consist of
22 nine members, five of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, two
23 of whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate
24 and two of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of
25 Representatives. Of the five members appointed by the Governor,
26 three shall have specific expertise in the area of telecommunications.
27 Members of the council shall serve without compensation, except for
28 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
29 Members shall serve on the council for terms of two years each and no
30 member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms. The
31 chairperson of the Public Utilities Control Authority, or the
32 chairperson's designee, and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
33 Management, or the secretary's designee, shall be ex-officio members
34 of the council without vote and shall attend its meetings. Any member
35 who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or fifty per cent of all
36 meetings during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned.
37 The council shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson to act in
38 the chairperson's absence.

39 (b) The council shall meet at least quarterly, commencing on or
40 before September 1, 2008. A majority of the members in office shall
41 constitute a quorum.

42 (c) The duties of the council shall be to: (1) Monitor trends and
43 developments in the state's efforts to develop a state-wide world-class
44 communications infrastructure; and (2) issue any reports it deems
45 necessary to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
46 having cognizance of matters relating to technology.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>October 1, 2007</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2007</i> | New section |

Statement of Purpose:

To allow municipalities to offer broadband wireless Internet service and to establish the Broadband Internet Coordinating Council.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. PERONE, 137th Dist.

H.B. 6780